

Serial No.: 09/994,357
Attorney Docket No.: F-323

Patent

REMARKS

1. Status of Claims

Claims 1-4 were pending in the Application. Applicant has amended claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer and added new claims 5-12. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 1-12 will remain pending in the application.

2. Claim Rejections

In sections 2-5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 6,654,779 to Tsuei, et al. ("Tsuei '779") in view of Return Path.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Initially, Applicant submits that it has not been established that the cited Return Path reference is available as prior art. Furthermore, Applicant submits that the references are not properly combined and do not establish a prima facie obviousness rejection.

However, solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and the rejection is moot.

With regard to independent claim 1, the claim recites:
identifying one or more e-mail address change notification recipients using the subscribers email address book.

Dependent claims 2-4 are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

New claim 5-12 recite additional features and Applicant respectfully submits the claims are patentable over the cited references.

With regard to claim 5, the claim recites:

"sending a message including confirmation data relating to the forwarding of the received message."

With regard to claim 9, the claim recites:

"requesting permission to forward the received message from the sender."

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Accordingly, Applicant submits that the invention as presently claimed in claims 1-12 is in condition for allowance.

3. Conclusion Of Remarks

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

4. Authorization

No fee is believed due with this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-323.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-323.

Respectfully submitted,



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